

**Articles of confederation and perpetual union between the states of New-Hampshire, Massachusetts-Bay, Rhode-Island and Providence plantations, Connecticut, New-York, New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North-Carolina, South-Carolina and Georgia ...**

ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION And PERPETUAL UNION BETWEEN THE STATES OF NEW-HAMPSHIRE, MASSACHUSETTS-BAY, RHODE-ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS, CONNECTICUT, NEW- YORK, NEW-JERSEY, PENNSYLVANIA, DELAWARE, MARY- LAND, VIRGINIA, NORTH-CAROLINA, SOUTH-CAROLINA AND GEORGIA.

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ARTICLES Of Confederation and Perpetual Union between the States of *New-Hampshire, Massachusetts-Bay, Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations, Connecticut, New-York, New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North-Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia.*

Article I. The Stile of this CONFEDERACY shall be "The UNITED STATES of AMERICA.

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Sovereignty and Independence of the respective States.

Art. II. EACH State retains its sovereignty, freedom and Independence, and every power, jurisdiction and right, which is not by this confederation expressly delegated to the United States, in Congress assembled.

Sovereignty and Independence of the respective States.

Art. III. The said states hereby severally enter into a firm league of friendship with each other, for their common defence, the security of their liberties, and their mutual and general welfare, binding themselves to assist each other, against all force offered to, or attacks made upon them, or any of them, on account of religion, sovereignty, trade, or any other pretence whatever.

Design of the confederation, as it regards common security.

Art. IV. The better to secure and perpetuate mutual friendship and intercourse among the people of the different states in this union, the free inhabitants of each of these states, paupers, vagabonds, and fugitives from justice excepted, shall be intitled to all privileges and immunities of free citizens in the several states; and the people of each state shall have free ingress and regress to and from any other state, and shall enjoy therein all the privileges of trade and commerce, subject to the same duties, impositions and restrictions as the inhabitants thereof respectively, provided that such restriction shall not extend so far as to prevent the removal of property imported into any state, to any other state of which the owner is an inhabitant; provided also that no imposition, duties or restriction shall be laid by any state, on the property of the United States, or either of them.

Social and mutual intercourse among the States.

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If any person guilty of, or charged with treason, felony, or other high misdemeanor in any state, shall flee from justice, and be found in any of the United States, he shall upon demand of the Governor, or executive power, of the state from which he fled, be delivered up and removed to the state having jurisdiction of his offence.

Full faith and credit shall be given in each of these states to the records, acts and judicial proceedings of the courts and magistrates of every other state.

Manner of constituting the Congress of the States, with the qualifications & privileges of the delegates.

Art. V. For the more convenient management of the general interests of the United States, delegates shall be annually appointed in such manner as the legislature of each state shall direct, to meet in Congress on the first Monday in November, in every year, with a power reserved to each state, to recal its delegates, or any of them, at any time within the year, and to send others in their stead for the remainder of the year.

No state shall be represented in Congress by less than two, nor by more than seven members; and no person shall be capable of being a delegate for more than three years, in any term of six years; nor shall any person, being a delegate, be capable of holding any office under the United States, for which he, or another for his benefit receives any salary, fees or emolument of any kind.

Each state shall maintain its own delegates in a meeting of the states, and while they act as members of the committee of the states.

In determining questions in the United States, in Congress assembled, each state shall have one vote.

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Freedom of speech and debate in Congress shall not be impeached or questioned in any court, or place out of Congress, and the members of Congress shall be protected in their persons from arrests and imprisonments, during the time of their going to and from, and attendance on Congress, except for treason, felony, or breach of the peace.

### Restraints upon the separate States

Art. VI. No state without the consent of the United States in Congress assembled, shall send any embassy to, or receive any embassy from, or enter into any conference, agreement, alliance or treaty with any king, prince or state; nor shall any person holding any office of profit or trust under the United States or any of them, accept of any present, emolument, office or title of any kind whatever from any king, prince or foreign state; nor shall the United States in Congress assembled, or any of them, grant any title of nobility.

No two or more states shall enter into any treaty, confederation or alliance whatever between them, without the consent of the United States in Congress assembled, specifying accurately the purposes for which the same is to be entered into, and how long it shall continue.

No

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No state shall lay any imposts or duties, which may interfere with any stipulations in treaties, entered into by the United States in Congress assembled, with any king, prince or state, in pursuance of any treaties already proposed by Congress, to the courts of France and Spain.

No vessels of war shall be kept up in time of peace by any state, except such number only, as shall be deemed necessary by the United States in Congress assembled, for

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the defence of such state, or its trade; nor shall any body of forces be kept up by any state, in time of peace, except such number only, as in the judgment of the United States in Congress assembled, shall be deemed requisite to garrison the forts necessary for the defence of such state; but every state shall always keep up a well regulated and disciplined militia, sufficiently armed and accoutred, and shall provide and constantly have ready for use, in public stores, a due number of field pieces and tents, and a proper quantity of arms, ammunition and camp equipage.

No state shall engage in any war without the consent of the United States in Congress assembled, unless such state be actually invaded by enemies, or shall have received certain advice of a resolution being formed by some nation of Indians to invade such state, and the danger is so imminent as not to admit of a delay, till the United States in Congress assembled can be consulted: nor shall any state grant commissions to any ships or vessels of war, nor letters of marque or reprisal, except it be after a declaration of war by the United States in Congress assembled, and then only against the kingdom or state and the subjects thereof, against which war has been so declared, and under such regulations as shall be established by the United States in Congress assembled, unless such state shall be infested by pirates, in which case vessels of war may be fitted out for that occasion, and kept so long as the danger shall continue, or until the United States in Congress assembled shall determine otherwise.

Art. VII. When land-forces are raised by any state for the common defence, all officers of or under the rank of colonel, shall be appointed by the legislature of each state respectively, by whom such forces shall be raised, or in such manner as such state shall direct, and all vacancies shall be filled up by the state which first made the appointment.

Mixt Rights of Congress and the separate States.

Art. VIII. All charges of war, and all other expences that shall be incurred for the common defence or general welfare, and allowed by the United States in Congress assembled,

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shall be defrayed out of a common treasury, which shall be supplied by the several states, in proportion to the value of all land within each state, granted to or surveyed for any person, as such land and the building and improvements thereon shall be estimated according to such mode as the United States in Congress assembled shall from time to time direct and appoint. The taxes for paying that proportion shall be laid and levied by the authority and direction of the legislatures of the several states within the time agreed upon by the United States in Congress assembled.

Manner of defraying public expences.

B Art.

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Powers of Congress.

Art. IX The United States in Congress assembled, shall have the sole and exclusive right and power of determining on peace and war; except in the cases mentioned in the sixth article — or sending and receiving ambassadors — entering into treaties and alliances, provided that no treaty of commerce shall be made whereby the legislative power of the respective states shall be restrained from imposing such imposts and duties on foreigners, as their own people are subjected to, or from prohibiting the exportation or importation of any species of goods or commodities whatsoever — of establishing rules for deciding in all cases what captures on land or water shall be legal and in what manner prizes taken by land or naval forces in the service of the United States shall be divided or appropriated — of granting letters of marque and reprisal in times of peace — appointing courts for the trial of piracies and felonies committed on the high seas and establishing courts for receiving and determining finally appeals in all cases of captures, provided that no member of Congress shall be appointed a judge of any of the said courts.

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The United States in Congress assembled shall also be the last resort on appeal in all disputes and differences now subsisting or that hereafter may arise between two or more states concerning boundary, jurisdiction or any other cause whatever; which authority shall always be exercised in the manner following. Whenever the legislative or executive authority or lawful agent of any state in controversy with another shall present a petition to Congress stating the matter in question and praying for a hearing, notice thereof shall be given by order of Congress to the legislative or executive authority of the other state in controversy, and a day assigned for the appearance of the parties by their lawful agents, who shall then be directed to appoint by joint consent, commissioners or judges to constitute a court for hearing and determining the matter in question: but if they cannot agree, Congress shall name three persons out of each of the United States, and from the list of such persons each party shall alternately strike out one, the petitioners beginning, until the number shall be reduced to thirteen; and from that number not less than seven, nor more than nine names as Congress shall direct, shall in the presence of Congress be drawn out by lot, and the person whose name shall be so drawn or any five of them, shall be commissioners or judges, to hear and finally determine the controversy, so always as a major part of the judges who shall hear the cause shall agree in the determination: and if either party shall neglect to attend at the day appointed, without shewing reasons, which Congress shall judge sufficient, or being present shall refuse to strike, the Congress shall proceed to nominate three persons out of each state, and the Secretary of Congress shall strike in behalf of such party absent or refusing; and the judgment and sentence of the court to be appointed, in the manner before prescribed, shall be final and conclusive; and if any of the parties shall refuse to submit to the authority of such court, or to appear or defend their claim or cause, the court shall nevertheless proceed to pronounce sentence, or judgment, which shall in like manner be final and decisive, the judgment or sentence and other proceedings being in either case transmitted to Congress, and lodged among the acts of Congress for the security of the parties concerned: 7 ( 7 ) concerned: provided that every commissioner, before he sits in judgment, shall take an oath to be administered by one of the judges of the supreme or superior court of the state, where the cause shall

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be tried, “ well and truly to hear and determine the matter in question, according to the best of his judgment, without favor, affection or hope of reward :” provided also that no state shall be deprived of territory for the benefit of the United States.

All controversies concerning the private right of soil claimed under different grants of two or more states, whose jurisdictions as they may respect such lands, and the states which passed such grants are adjusted, the said grant or either of them being at the same time claimed to have originated antecedent to such settlement of jurisdiction, shall on the petition of either party to the Congress of the United States, be finally determined as near as may be in the same manner as is before prescribed for deciding disputes respecting territorial jurisdiction between different states.

The United States in Congress assembled shall also have the sole and exclusive right and power of regulating the alloy and value of coin struck by their own authority, or by that of the respective states — fixing the standard of weights and measures throughout the United States — regulating the trade and managing all affairs with the Indians, not members of any of the states, provided that the legislative right of any state within its own limits be not infringed or violated — establishing and regulating post-offices from one state to another, throughout all the United States, and exacting such postage on the papers passing thro' the same as may be require to defray the expences of the said office — appointing all officers of the land forces, in the service of the United States, excepting regimental officers — appointing all the officers of the naval forces, and commissioning all officers whatever in the service of the United States — making rules for the government and regulation of the said land and naval forces, and directing their operations.

The United States in Congress assembled shall have authority to appoint a committee, to sit in the recess of Congress, to be denominated “ A Committee of the States,” and to consist of one delegate from each state; and to appoint such other committees and civil officers as may be necessary for managing the general affairs of the United States under their direction — to appoint one of their number to preside, provided that no person be

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allowed to serve in the office of president more than one year in any term of three years; to ascertain the necessary sums of money to be raised for the service of the United States, and to appropriate and apply the same for defraying the public expences — to borrow money, or emit bills on the credit of the United States, transmitting every half year to the respective states and account of the sums of money so borrowed or emitted — to build and equip a navy — to agree upon the number of land forces, and to make requisitions from each state for its quota, in proportion to the number of white inhabitants in such state; which requisition shall be binding, 8 ( 8 ) binding, and thereupon the legislature of each state shall appoint the regimental officers, raise the men and cloath, arm and equip them in a soldier-like manner, at the expence of the United States, and the officers and men so cloathed, armed and equipped shall march to the place appointed, and within the time agreed on by the United States in Congress assembled: But if the United States in Congress assembled shall, on consideration of circumstances judge proper that any state should not raise men, or should raise a smaller number than its quota, and that any other state should raise a greater number of men than the quota thereof, such extra number shall be raised, officered, cloathed, armed and equipped in the same manner as the quota of such state, unless the legislature of such state shall judge that such extra number cannot be safely spared out of the same, in which case they shall raise, officer, cloath, arm and equip as many of such extra number as they judge can be safely spared. And the officers and men so cloathed, armed and equipped, shall march to the place appointed, and within the time agreed on by the United States in Congress assembled.

The United States in Congress assembled shall never engage in a war, nor grant letters of marque and reprisal, in time of peace, nor enter into any treaties or alliances, nor coin money, nor regulate the value thereof, nor ascertain the sums and expences necessary for the defence and welfare of the United States, or any of them, not emit bills, nor borrow money on the credit of the United States, nor appropriate money, nor agree upon the number of vessels of war, to be built or purchased, or the number of land or sea forces to be raised, not appoint a commander in chief of the army or navy, unless nine states

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assent to the same: nor shall a question on any other point, except for adjourning from day to day be determined, unless by the votes of a majority of the United States in Congress assembled.

The Congress of the United States shall have power to adjourn to any time within the year, and to any place within the United States, so that no period of adjournment be for a longer duration than the space of six months, and shall publish the journal of their proceedings monthly, except such parts thereof relating to treaties, alliances or military operations, as in their judgment require secrecy; and the yeas and nays of the delegates of each state on any question shall be entered on the journal, when its desired by any delegate; and the delegates of a state, or any of them, at his or their request shall be furnished with a transcript of the said journal, except such parts as are above excepted, to lay before the legislatures of the several states.

Committee of the States and its Powers.

Art. X. The committee of the states, or any nine of them, shall be authorised to execute, in the recess of Congress, such of the powers of Congress as the United States in Congress assembled, by the consent of nine states, shall from time to time think expedient to vest them with; provided that no power be delegated to the said committee, for the exercise of which, by the articles of confederation, the voice of nine states in Congress of the United States assembled is requisite.

XI. Canada

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Art. XI. Canada acceding to this confederation, and joining in the measures of the United States, shall be admitted into, and entitled to all the advantages of this union: but no

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other colony shall be admitted into the same, unless such admission be agreed to by nine states.

Admission of Canada, and other states to the Union.

Art. XII. All bills of credit emitted, monies borrowed and debts contracted by, or under the authority of Congress, before the assembling of the United States, in pursuance of the present confederation, shall be deemed and considered as a charge against the United States, for payment and satisfaction whereof the said United States, and the public faith are hereby solemnly pledged.

Public Faith pledged for past engagements of Congress.

Art. XIII. Every state shall abide by the determinations of the United States in Congress assembled, on all questions which by this confederation are submitted to them. And the Articles of this confederation shall be inviolably observed by every state, and the union shall be perpetual; nor shall any alteration at any time hereafter be made in any of them; unless such alteration be agreed to in a Congress of the United States, and be afterwards confirmed by the legislatures of every state.

Obligation of the States to abide by the Determination of Congress, & the inviolable observance of these Articles.

*THESE Articles shall be proposed to the legislatures of all the United States, to be considered, and if approved of by them, they are advised to authorise their delegates, to ratify the same in the Congress of the United States; which being done, the same shall become conclusive.*

By order of Congress, Henry Laurens, *President*.

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In CONGRESS, November 17, 1777.

CONGRESS having agreed upon a plan of confederacy for securing the freedom, sovereignty and independence of the United States; authentic copies are now transmitted for the consideration of the respective legislatures.

This business equally intricate and important, has in its progress, been attended with uncommon embarrassments and delay; which the most anxious solicitude and persevering diligence could not prevent. To form a permanent union, accommodated to the opinion and wishes of the delegates of so many states, differing in habits, produce, commerce and internal police, was found to be a work, which nothing but time and reflection, conspiring with a disposition to conciliate, could mature and accomplish.

Hardly is it to be expected, that any plan, in the variety of provisions essential to our union, should exactly correspond with the maxims and political views of every particular state. Let it be remarked, that after the most careful inquiry and the fullest information, this is proposed as the best which could be adapted to the circumstances of all; and as that alone, which affords any tolerable prospect of a general ratification.

Permit us then earnestly to recommend these articles to the immediate and dispassionate attention of the legislatures of the respective states. Let them be candidly reviewed under a sense of the difficulty of combining in one general system, the various sentiments and interests of a continent, divided into so many foreign and independent communities — under a conviction of the absolute necessity of uniting all our councils and all our strength to maintain and defend our common liberties. Let them be examined with a liberality becoming brethren and fellow citizens, surrounded by the same imminent dangers, contending for the same illustrious prize, and deeply interested in being for ever bound

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and connected together by ties the most intimate and indissoluble. And finally let them be adjusted with the temper and magnanimity of wife and patriotic legislators, who while they are concerned for the prosperity of their own more immediate circle, are capable of rising superior to local attachments, when they may be incompatible with the safety, happiness and glory of the general confederacy.

We have reason to regret the time, which has elapsed in preparing this plan for consideration. With additional solicitude we look forward to that, which must be necessarily spent before it can be ratified. Every motive loudly calls upon us to hasten its conclusion. — More than any other consideration — it will confound our foreign enemies — defeat the flagitious practices of the disaffected, — strengthen and confirm our friends — support our public credit — restore the value of our money — enable us to maintain our fleets and armies, and add weight and 12 ( 12 ) and respect to our councils at home and to our treaties abroad. In short, this salutary measure can no longer be deferred. It seems essential to our very existence as a free people; and without it, we may soon bid adieu to independence, to liberty and safety — blessings, which from the justice of our cause, and the favor of our Almighty Creator visibly manifested in our protection, we have reason to expect, if in a humble dependence on his divine providence, we strenuously exert the means, which are placed in our power

To conclude; if the legislature of any state shall not be assembled, Congress recommend to the executive power to convene it without delay; and to each respective legislature it is recommended to invest its delegates with competent powers ultimately in the name and behalf of the state to subscribe articles of confederation and perpetual union of the United States, and to attend Congress for that purpose, on or before the tenth day of *March* next.

*By order of Congress*, HENRY LAURENS, President.

*The Honorable the Speaker of the General Assembly in the State of Massachusetts-Bay.*

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In CONGRESS, November 22, 1777.

PURSUED by the injustice and the vengeance of *Great-Britain*, these United States have been compelled to engage in a bloody and expensive war. Amidst every distress that may befall them, it will be their consolation to appeal to Heaven for the rectitude of their measures, since they have had recourse to arms, not from ambition or the lust of power, but to resist actual invasion, and boundless rapine, and to secure the common rights and privileges of human nature — the blessings of freedom and safety.

Aided by venal foreigners and domestic traitors, the war has been prosecuted by our implacable foes with their utmost force and vigour, and aggravated by more than savage barbarity. Congress nevertheless, supported by the confidence of their fellow citizens without burthening them with taxes, or pecuniary contributions have hitherto raised all the necessary supplies on the public faith.

To maintain our fleets and armies, large sums have been emitted in bills of credit, and the same method has been embraced by the respective States to answer their internal wants. By these expedients, our paper 13 ( 13 ) paper currency, notwithstanding the solid basis on which it is founded, is multiplied beyond the rules of good policy. No truth being more evident, than that where the quantity of money of any denomination exceeds what is useful as a medium of commerce, it's comparative value must be proportionably reduced. To this cause, conspiring with the arts of our open and secret enemies, the shameful avidity of too many of our professed friends, and the scarcity of foreign commodities, are we to ascribe the depreciation of our currency. The consequences to be apprehended are equally obvious and alarming. They tend to the depravity of morals — the decay of public virtue — a precarious supply for the war — debasement of the public faith — injustice to individuals — and destruction of the honor, safety and independence of the United States. Loudly therefore are we called upon to provide a seasonable and effectual remedy.

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Blessed be God, they are not irremediable — the means of repressing them are still in our power. Let the virtuous patriots of *America* reflect on the inestimable value of the prize for which we are contending. Hitherto spared from taxes, let them now, with a chearful heart contribute according to their circumstances. Let the sordid wretches who shrink from danger and personal service, and meanly prefer their own inglorious ease and emolument to the good of their country be despised, and their ill-gotten wealth be abhorred as a disgrace. Let the extortioners and oppressors be published — the secret traitors be dragged to light — the necessities of the army attended to and relieved — and the quantity of money in circulation be reduced — and we shall soon see the public credit fully established, and with the continuation of the divine favor, a glorious termination of the present arduous conflict.

To promote these great and salutary purposes, Congress upon mature deliberation, and with the most earnest solicitude, recommend the following propositions to the legislatures of the respective states to be immediately adopted and carried into effect:

I. Resolved, That it be most earnestly recommended to the respective states to raise in the course of the year 1778, commencing on the first day of *January* next, by quarterly payments, the sum of *Five Millions of Dollars*, by taxes to be levied on the inhabitants of the respective states in the proportion following, *viz.*

*New-Hampshire*, 200,000 Dollars. *Massachusetts-Bay*, 820,000 *Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations*, 100,000 *Connecticut*, 600,000 *New-York*, 200,000 *New-Jersey*, 270,000 *Pennsylvania*, 620,000 *Delaware*, 60,000 *Maryland*, 520,000 *Virginia*, 800,000 *North-Carolina*, 250,000 *South-Carolina*, 500,000 *Georgia*, 60,000 — 5,000,000 D

That 14 (14) That the sums so assessed and to be raised, shall not be considered as the proportion of any state, but being paid into the treasury, shall be placed to their respective credit, bearing an interest of six per cent per annum, from the time of payment, until the quotas shall be finally ascertained and adjusted by the Congress of the United States, agreeable to the confederation hereafter to be adopted and ratified by the several states.

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And if it shall then appear, that any state is assessed more than its just quota of the said tax, it shall continue to receive interest on the surplus, and if less, it shall be charged with interest on the deficiency, until by a future tax, such surplus or deficiency shall be properly adjusted.

2. Resolved, That it be earnestly recommended to the legislatures of the several states to refrain from further emissions of bills of credit, and where there is a sufficient quantity of continental bills of credit for the purposes of a circulating medium, forthwith to call in by loans or taxes, and to cancel the paper money, small bills for change under a dollar excepted, which such state has already emitted; and for the future to provide for the exigencies of war, and the support of government by taxes to be levied within the year, or such other expedient, as may produce a competent supply.

3. *And whereas the obstruction of the course of justice in any state may not only prove injurious to its citizens, but also to the circulation and credit of the currency of such state, and of the United States :*

Resolved therefore, That it be recommended to the several states forthwith to take effectual care that justice be duly administered within their respective jurisdictions, as well for the recovery of debts, as for the punishment of crimes and misdemeanors; provided that no suit or action shall be maintainable for the benefit of the enemies of these United States.

4. *And whereas signal advantages have arisen from the establishment of continental loan offices, on which Congress continue to place great dependance: In order therefore as far as it is practicable to ascertain the supplies for the war, which may be raised in the several states upon loan office certificates:*

Resolved, That it be recommended to the legislatures, or in the recess of any of them to the executive authority of the respective states, to cause subscriptions to be opened under the inspection of one or more respectable citizens within each town or district specifying

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the names of the lenders and the sums they are will to lend; and that a copy of such subscription papers shall from time to time be sent to the respective commissioners of the said loan offices, and by them transmitted to Congress; provided that no certificate shall issue for less than two hundred dollars.

5. Resolved, That it be recommended to the legislatures, or in their recess, to the executive power of the respective States of *New- Hampshire* 15 ( 15 ) *Hampshire, Massachusetts-Bay, Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations, Connecticut, New-York, New-Jersey, Pennsylvania* and *Delaware*, respectively to appoint commissioners to convene at *New-Haven*, in *Connecticut*, on the fifteenth day of *January* next: And to the States of *Virginia, Maryland, and North-Carolina*, respectively to appoint commissioners to convene at *Fredericksburg*, in *Virginia*, of the said fifteenth day of *January*: And to the States of *South-Carolina* and *Georgia*, respectively to appoint commissioners to convene at *Charlestown*, on the fifteenth day of *February* next, in order to regulate and ascertain the price of labour, manufactures, internal produce and commodities imported from foreign parts, military stores excepted; and also to regulate the charges of innholders; and that on the report of the commissioners, each of the respective legislatures enact suitable laws, as well for inforcing the observance of such of the regulations as they shall ratify, and enabling such innholders to obtain the necessary supplies, as to authorize the purchasing commissaries of the army, or any other person whome the legislatures may think proper, to take from any engrossers, forestallers, or other persons possessed of a larger quantity of any such commodities or provisions, than shall be competent for the private annual consumption of their families, and who shall refuse to sell the surplus at the prices to be ascertained as aforesaid; paing only such price for the same.

6. *And in order to introduce immediate economy in the public expence, the spirit of sharpening and extortion, and the rapid and excessive rise of every commodity being confined within no bounds; and considering how much time must unavoidably elapse, before the plan directed by the preceeding resolution can be carried into effect:*

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Resolved, That it be earnestly recommended to the respective legislatures of the United States, without delay, by their separate authority to adopt and effectually enforce a temporary regulation of the prices of provisions, and other commodities for the supply of the army, in such manner as they shall judge reasonable; and to continue in force until the general regulation before proposed shall be adopted.

*7. And whereas notwithstanding the large quantities of cloathing which have seasonably been ordered from Europe, for the armies of the United States, such have been the obstructions from a variety of causes, that an adequate supply hath not been imported, and it is become necessary that immediate provision should be made to defend the troops from the inclemency of the winter. And to prevent future disappointments of the like nature, and that for this purpose several States should be called upon for assistance:*

Resolved, therefore, That it be earnestly recommended to the several States, from time to time to exert their utmost endeavors to procure in addition to the allowance of cloathing heretofore made by Congress, supplies of blankets, shoes, stockings, shirts and other cloathing, for the comfortable subsistence of the officers and soldiers of their respective battalions; and to appoint one or more persons to dispose of such 16 ( 16 ) such articles to the said officers and soldiers, in such proportions as the several officers from their respective States, commanding in such army, shall direct, and at such reasonable prices as shall be assessed by the Clothier General, or his deputy, and be in just proportion to the wages of the officers and soldiers, charging the surplus of the cost to the United States: And all cloathing hereafter to be supplied to the officers and soldiers of the Continental army, out of the public stores of the United States, beyond the bounties already granted, shall be charged at the like prices, the surplus to be defrayed by the United States; provided that effectual measures be adopted by each State for preventing any competition between their purchasing agents and the clothier-general, or his agents, who are severally directed to observe the instructions of the respective States, relative to the prices of cloathing purchased within such State.

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8. Resolved, That it be earnestly recommended to the several States, as soon as may be, to confiscate and make sale of all the real and personal estate therein, or such of their inhabitants and other persons who have forfeited the same, and the right to the protection of their respective States; and to invest the money arising from the sales in Continental loan-office certificates, to be appropriated in such manner as the respective States shall hereafter direct.

*Extract from the minutes, CHARLES THOMSON, Secretary.*

*By order of Congress, HENRY LAURENS, President.*

*WHEREAS the Honorable CONGRESS have formed and proposed to the Legislative Body of this State Articles of Confederation and perpetual Union between the United States of America; and it is considered by this House as a Matter of great Importance beyond the usual Course of Business expected by their Constituents at the Election of their Representatives:*

Therefore, Resolved, That it be recommended to the several Towns in this State, to intrust their Representatives to act and do as they shall judge most for the Advantage of this and the other United States relative to that Matter.

*A true Extract from the Minutes, Attest. SAMUAL FREEMAN, Clerk.*

*By Order of the House, J. WARREN, Speaker.*